



**COLOMBIA**

Statement

**Guillermo Fernández de Soto**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

**Intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for 2020 United Nations  
Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal  
14**

New York, March 17, 2020

*Verify with delivered version*

Thank you Mr. Co-Facilitators, Excellencies and distinguished delegates.

Colombia aligns itself with the statement made by the G77 + China.

Colombia agrees with the need of preparing a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration that focuses on, and highlights, the science-based and innovative areas of action to support the implementation of Goal 14, as set out in the mandate of Resolution 73/292. As such, implementation of Goal 14 implies respecting the actual commitments outlined in it, without deviating, creating new language or bringing wording from other negotiations. In this sense, SDG 14c, makes reference to UNCLOS as “the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources”. Paragraph 7 of the draft declaration, therefore, should not reflect any other language.

Furthermore, as requested by many Member States during the Preparatory Meeting, the co-facilitators have chosen to reaffirm the commitments made in the 2017 Call for Action in order to avoid renegotiating the agreements reached in 2017. The current language of Paragraph 7 of the draft declaration, however, diverges from the commitments made in the 2017 Call for Action which faithfully reflects the aforementioned SDG 14c.

Therefore, in order to avoid such renegotiation, we kindly request that paragraph 7 reflects the language of Paragraph 11 of the 2017 Call for Action, where UNCLOS is recognized as “the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources”.

In regards to international cooperation and the mobilization of financial resources, reflected in Paragraph 11b of the draft declaration, Colombia also sees merit in strengthening the current language. In order to avoid a lengthy negotiation in this sense, we propose to revert to the language already agreed upon in Paragraph 12 of the Call for Action of 2017.

Finally, Colombia would like to suggest that the declaration also mentions the work that the United Nations is already carrying out to implement SDG 14, such as the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. We see that its contributions could be added in letter i of Paragraph 11. An inclusion of the work of the Division of Oceans and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) could also be recognized in Paragraph 13.

Thank you.